



Idaho State Department of Education Early Reading (K-3) Assessment Consultant Scope of Work

Overview:

The Idaho State Department of Education (ISDE) is seeking an early reading intervention consultant, who specializes in assessment and alternate assessment for Kindergarten – Third Grade students. Idaho currently requires a K-3 Reading Indicator and Alternate Reading Indicator.

Idaho Code 33-1614 and 33-1615 - the state department of education shall be responsible for administration of all assessment efforts, train assessment personnel, and report results. ...all public school students in kindergarten through third grade shall have their reading skills assessed. Reading assessment shall identify those students as “below grade level” and provide 40 hours of intervention for those students k-3. The state department of education shall reimburse districts/schools for instructional costs with the exception of transportation which shall be reimbursed at an amount not to exceed \$30.00 per student per session. State shall adopt any reporting guidelines and standards necessary to accomplish the program goals that every child will read fluently and comprehend printed text on grade level by the end of the third grade.

Scope:

Idaho desires to contract with a consultant to research and analyze best practices within K-3 Reading Assessments and make recommendations to the state as to whether changes are needed in the state system. Questions to consider are:

- What is needed to replace, change, or update the current Idaho Reading Indicator and the Alternate Reading Indicator?
- What can Idaho do to make this assessment tool more reliable and determine “at-risk” students?
- What can Idaho do to identify “at-risk” students who are deaf and/or hard of hearing or nonverbal?
- What are best practices in K-3 assessment administration?

The consultant will:

1. Meet with key Idaho State Department of Education staff and members of the IRI Steering Committee to gather background information and begin identification of state specific changes needed.
2. Gather and review State level historic data in order to inform recommendations to ISDE; analyzing trends, making comparisons to national data trends, and identifying gaps by specifically looking at:
 - a. Ethnicity/home language
 - b. Special Education Status
 - i. Blind
 - ii. Deaf and hard of hearing

- iii. nonverbal
 - c. Gender
 - d. Migrant
 - e. IRI Alternative Assessment
 - f. Title 1 status
 - 3. Gather research on Best Practices for early reading benchmark assessments.
 - 4. Determine proficient indicators of reading difficulty (determine those “at risk” students)
 - a. Kindergarten – reading awareness and phonological awareness
 - b. 1st, 2nd, and 3rd grade – fluency and accuracy of the student’s reading
 - 5. Identify and recommend a benchmark assessment with which all K-3 students can be assessed, including Limited English Proficient and Students with Disabilities, and is aligned to the new Common Core State Standards.
 - 6. Identify and recommend a process for scoring the assessment, considering that Idaho either stays with the current (1, 2, 3) system, or move to an alternate system.
 - 7. Identify and recommend a process for establishing state cut-scores or using national cut-scores.
 - 8. Analyze current growth targets for Idaho’s K-3 students. Research and identify new growth targets for K-3, if applicable.
 - 9. Identify and recommend comprehensive training protocols for testing coordinators and proctors.
 - 10. Recommend best practices for Test Security, administration documents, and ongoing coordination and consultation for the K-3 assessment program.
- Applicants must have early reading assessment expertise.
 - Applicants must disclose any potential conflicts of interest and agree to the state of Idaho’s contractual terms and conditions.

The ISDE anticipates a contract not to exceed 6 months. The ISDE will cover contractor fees and pre-approved travel expenses, at the State of Idaho Board of Examiner Rates, for 2 in person visits to/from the ISDE offices in Boise, Idaho. A final report with conclusions and recommendations must be presented. The ISDE will maintain ownership of all materials produced within the contract.

If interested, please send a resume and cover letter detailing experience, ability to perform the tasks and contractual fees to:

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- Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis as they are submitted